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Need for Public Shooting Range in Columbia County

The Issue: There is no public shooting range in Columbia County for purposes of increasing proficiency and firearm safety for the thousands of county hunters and shooting enthusiasts. Not having a well-designed, safe and authorized public shooting range in the county has led to substantial unauthorized, unsafe and damaging target shooting on public and private lands in the county. Such unauthorized target shooting has led to many citizen complaints and has caused an increased workload for county and state law enforcement officers.

The citizens of Columbia County will also greatly benefit from a new, accessible and well-designed public shooting range for the purposes of providing a high quality firearm training facility for law enforcement officials that work in Columbia County.

A new public shooting range will be eligible for construction with WDNR Pitman-Robertson Funds. These funds are paid for by a 10% Excise Tax on all firearm and ammunition purchases by hunters and shooting enthusiasts. Obtaining such funding will bring back into the county a substantial amount of the tax money that county residents have been paying into the Pitman-Robertson Fund since 1936.

Be it Resolved, that the Conservation Congress at its Annual Meeting held in Columbia County on April 8, 2013, strongly supports the construction of a public shooting range in Columbia County and further strongly supports the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources awarding Pitman-Robertson Funds to aid in the construction of the facility.

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